

Hebrews 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

Analysis

Into the Most Holy Place, the high priest alone entered, 'once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.' This annual limitation demonstrated restricted access to God under the old covenant. The need for blood 'for himself' showed human priesthood's imperfection. The limitation to 'ignorance' sins showed incompleteness. Christ's sacrifice addresses all sin and provides constant access.

Historical Context

Leviticus 16 prescribed the Day of Atonement ritual. The high priest's single annual entrance made that day Israel's most solemn. Yet even this highest privilege was restricted, temporary, and imperfect, pointing to the need for better access through a better priest.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the limitation to 'once a year' teach about the distance between God and humanity under the old covenant?
2. How does Christ's sacrifice provide access to God's presence not just annually but constantly?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	δὲ	τὴν	δευτέραν	ἅπαξ	τοῦ	ἐνιαυτοῦ	μόνος	ὁ
into	But	G3588	the second	once	G3588	every year	alone	G3588
G1519	G1161		G1208	G530		G1763	G3441	
ἀρχιερεύς	οὐ	χωρὶς	αἵματος	ὃ	προσφέρει	ὑπὲρ		
went the high priest	not	without	blood	which	he offered	for		
G1519	G3756	G5565	G129	G3739	G4374	G5228		
ἐαυτοῦ	καὶ	τῶν	τοῦ	λαοῦ	ἀγνοημάτων			
himself	and	G3588	G3588	of the people	for the errors			
G1438	G2532			G2992	G51			

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 16:34 (Parallel theme): And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 5:18 (Parallel theme): And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist it not, and it shall be forgiven him.

Hebrews 7:27 (Parallel theme): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Exodus 30:10 (Blood): And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year

shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

Isaiah 3:12 (Parallel theme): As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Isaiah 28:7 (Parallel theme): But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Isaiah 9:16 (Parallel theme): For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

Hosea 4:12 (Parallel theme): My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.